Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.–27. (Canceled).

28. (Currently Amended) A method of treating a patient having a neurodegenerative disease characterized by extracellular plaques, the method comprising administering to the patient a herpes simplex virus (HSV) amplicon particle produced by a helper virus-free method comprising co-transfecting ~~transfecting~~ a cell with: (a) an amplicon plasmid comprising an HSV origin of replication, an HSV cleavage/packaging signal, and a heterologous transgene, (b) one or more vectors that, individually or collectively, encode all essential HSV genes but exclude all cleavage/packaging signals, and (c) a nucleic acid encoding an accessory protein; wherein the heterologous transgene encodes a therapeutic protein that improves one or more symptoms of the neurodegenerative disease.

29. (Original) The method of claim 28, wherein the neurodegenerative disease is Alzheimer's disease.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28, wherein the heterologous transgene encodes a molecular adjuvant.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, wherein the molecular adjuvant is tetanus toxin Fragment C or keyhole limpet hemocyanin.

32. (Canceled).

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28, wherein the heterologous transgene encodes Aβ.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28, wherein the heterologous transgene encodes both Aβ and a molecular adjuvant.

35–48. (Canceled).

49. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, wherein the molecular adjuvant induces a Th2-mediated immune response.

50. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 28,~~ A method of treating a patient having a neurodegenerative disease characterized by extracellular plaques, the method comprising administering to the patient a herpes simplex virus (HSV) amplicon particle produced by a helper virus-free method comprising co-transfecting a cell with: (a) an amplicon plasmid comprising an HSV origin of replication, an HSV cleavage/packaging signal, and a heterologous transgene, (b) one or more vectors that, individually or collectively, encode all essential HSV genes but exclude all cleavage/packaging signals, and (c) a nucleic acid encoding an accessory protein, wherein the accessory protein comprises a virion host shut-off protein; and wherein the heterologous transgene encodes a therapeutic protein that improves one or more symptoms of the neurodegenerative disease.

51. (New) A method of treating a patient having a neurodegenerative disease characterized by extracellular plaques, the method comprising administering to the patient a herpes simplex virus (HSV) amplicon particle produced by a helper virus-free method comprising:

providing a cell expressing an accessory protein, wherein the accessory protein comprises a virion host shut-off protein and

transfecting the cell with: (a) an amplicon plasmid comprising an HSV origin of replication, an HSV cleavage/packaging signal, and a heterologous transgene, and (b) one or more vectors that, individually or collectively, encode all essential HSV genes but exclude all cleavage/packaging signals; wherein the heterologous transgene encodes a therapeutic protein that improves one or more symptoms of the neurodegenerative disease.